



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Bill Leonard, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Sacramento**

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## **BILL LEONARD SAYS GAS USE DOWN FOR BOTH THE MONTH OF JUNE AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2007**

Bill Leonard, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released gasoline consumption figures for June and complete figures for the second quarter of 2007. Californians used 1.6 percent less gasoline in June than the same period last year. The decline of 0.6 percent during the second quarter marks the fifth consecutive three- month period to show less gas consumption. *(Editor's note – see chart on second page).*

In the second quarter of 2007, Californians used 22.1 million gallons less than they did in the same period last year. June figures declined by 1.6 percent from the same period a year ago, and show a 2.7 percent decrease from May 2007.

Over the past five years, Californians have used an average of about 15.8 billion gallons of gasoline annually. During the 2006 calendar year Californians consumed 15.83 billion gallons, down from 15.94 billion a year earlier.

The second quarter of 2007's average pump price of \$3.384 was 21 cents above prices during the second quarter of 2006. Those higher prices generated approximately \$982.5 million in sales tax during that quarter, an estimated \$57 million more than the second quarter of 2006.

The Board estimates that nearly twice as much sales tax is generated annually by higher gasoline prices than five years ago. In 2006, sales tax revenues from gasoline sales were estimated to be \$3.3 billion, while 2002's gasoline sales generated \$1.7 billion. The State's excise tax revenues, 18 cents collected on every gallon, have remained relatively stable.

The publicly-elected Board is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. All monthly, quarterly and annual figures can be viewed at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was re-elected as the Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in November 2007. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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Number of gallons of gasoline consumed: In the second quarter of 2007, Californians used 22.1 million fewer gallons than they did in the second quarter of 2006.

